

Message Text

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P 011838Z OCT 76
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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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NESCO

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TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: DRAFT DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
GOVERNING USE OF MASS MEDIA

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT PARIS 21666

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO
SUBJECT: DRAFT DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
GOVERNING USE OF MASS MEDIA

REF: (A) PARIS 21576; (B) PARIS 17288; (C) ROME 10867

1. DRAFT DECLARATION CIRCULATED BY FRG, JULY 23 AT UNESCO
'INFORMATION GROUP' MEETING AS ALTERNATIVE TO DRAFT UNESCO
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TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

'ART. ROEM 1: THE MASS MEDIA IN DESSEMINATING INFORMATION AND OPINION SHOULD DO SO IN A MANNER WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AND ARTICLE 19 OF THE COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS).

SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION, STATES SHOULD MAKE IT THEIR AIM TO FACILITATE THE FREER AND WIDER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNIVERSAL DBCLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

ART. ROEM 2: IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND TO APPRAISE EVENTS INDEPENDENTLY, THE RIGHT TO SEEK, RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT INFORMATION SHOULD BE ASSURED, AND THE WIDEST POSSIBLE FACILITIES AFFORDED, BEARING IN MIND THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

ART. ROEM 3: THE MASS MEDIA ARE CALLED UPON TO PROMOTE GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE ILLS ATTENDANT UPON WAR, VIOLENCE, APARTHEID AND ALL FORMS OF NATIONAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS HATRED. THE VOICES OF THOSE UNABLE TO BE HEARD WITHIN THEIR OWN TERRITORY BECAUSE OF THE REPRESSION BROUGHT ABOUT BY APARTHEID OR BY POLITICAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPRESSION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA.

STATES SHOULD ENACT LEGISLATION AGAINST PROPAGANDA FOR WAR, ADVOCACY OF OR PROPAGANDA FOR NATIONAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS HATRED OR RACIAL, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION INCLUDING THE DISCRIMINATION OF MINORITIES.

ART. ROEM 4: THE MASS MEDIA ARE CALLED UPON TO HAVE IN MIND THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE YOUTH AND TO DISSEMINATE THEIR VIEWS, CONCERN AND ASPIRATIONS. IT IS CONSONANT WITH ART. 26 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE MEDIA TO PROMOTE, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTH, T-E LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN PERSONALITY, THE STRENGTHENING OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG ALL NATIONS, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

ART. ROEM 5 : IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL MASS MEDIA, STATES SHOULD PROMOTE, BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION, THE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDEPENDENCE OF INFORMATION PERSONNEL,
AND HELP ENSURE THAT THE MEDIA HAVE THE TECHNICAL
FACILITIES REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THEIR ROLE.

ART. ROEM 6: THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO
GIVE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ON THE BASIS OF APPROP-
RIATE AGREEMENTS, SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHING AND
PROMOTING NATIONAL MASS MEDIA AND FOR TRAINING THEIR
PERSONNEL WITH A VIEW TO REACHING A MORE BALANCED FLOW OF
INFORMATION.

ART. ROEM 7: THE MASS MEDIA ARE CALLED UPON TO RESPECT
AND SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLES FREED FROM COLONIALISM
AIMING AT OBTAINING AND PRESERVING THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY.

ART. ROEM 8: PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF
THE MASS MEDIA CAN HELP TO ENSURE THAT THE MEDIA
CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES
OF THIS DECLARATION. IN PARTICULAR, THESE ORGANIZATIONS
CAN, ON A NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL,
ENCOURAGE HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS AND IMPROVE THE PRO-
FESSIONAL TRAINING OF MEDIA PERSONNEL. THE SETTING UP OF
SUCH ORGANIZATIONS BY FREE MEDIA AND JOURNALISTS SHOULD BE
ENCOURAGED. GAMMON KISSINGER

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